Aden

000 I appear to have been discretion itself between 1948 and 1951; most extraordinary.

There is one other subject which, although it only indirectly concerned the Legislative Council at first, became later very much an affair of the Legislative Council, about which I shall record my own somewhat short-sighted conduct.

• 631 In 1945 the Government had raided the Municipal larder and
632 taken over the profit-making Electricity Department and the
[655] equally financially satisfactory Water Department, and at the
[365] same time they abolished the old Settlement Authority and created a Township Authority, which was, in fact, much the same thing as a municipality but with much reduced powers. This latter was a retrograde step with which I personally was never in accord and which was generally resented, and it was not surprising that early in 1948 the newspapers began to clamour for increased powers for the Township Authority or its conversion into a fully fledged municipality. At the same time there began a demand for the election of the Members and one particular section of the Press was loud in pressing for municipal reforms of the most far-reaching character.

641 Now, I was not in favour of elections, believing that the time was not ripe for such a very big step forward and in consequence I found myself at variance with most of the other Unofficial Members of the Legislative Council, who favoured elections in the municipal field of politics, but not necessarily
000 in the legislative field. However, I was not altogether alone in my oppositon because Mackawwi felt much the same as I did and one morning he came into the Port Trust Office, shook hands rather limply, sat down and folded one of his long thin legs over the other and said nothing. He looked rather tired and I asked how he was feeling.

"I am not well, I have not been well since I retired from business and gave up my work; that was a very foolish thing to do," he said

"Have you seen a doctor?" I asked.

"I have seen all the doctors in Aden and most of those in Bombay," was his answer.

"Have you followed their advice?" I inquired.

2: Hickinbotham G-4, 5 (ca. 1931-ca. 1957)
1958 MM1 Aden MM1

175
648 their territory to any foreign power without the previous permission of the Government of India. In return we undertook to protect them from external aggression. Those were the main clauses, but there were, of course, subsidiary clauses which differed from Treaty to Treaty and which related to freedom of access to each other's territory, the protection of trade routes and similar matters. The main object of the Treaties was protection, protection from the Yemen as far as the tribes were concerned, and protection from the Yemen and the tribes themselves as far as we were concerned.

As the years went by and the buffer grew in size as more and more States came into alliance, so did our responsibilities to the people of the area grow, although it took us nearly a hundred years to realise our obligations, which we have not yet adequately discharged.

642 The States are twenty-five in number, of which the Sultanate
● 631 of Lahej is the senior, not only by virtue of its importance, but also because it was the first to enter into treaty relations with Her Majesty's Government. They vary greatly in size from the 40,000 square miles of the Quaiti Sultanate of Shihr and Mukalla, to the few unproductive acres of the Sultan of Bir Ali, an insignificant little sea port. The Rulers, who are either Sultans or Sheikhs or Amirs, or even Naqibs—it makes no difference to the importance of the State what title is held by the Ruler—are all independent in so far as their internal authority is concerned, and the only curbs on their power are tradition and the degree of independence of the people themselves. This latter varies with the geographical position and the
[184] nature of the terrain of the State. In the Yafa Highlands, which
[641] are almost inaccessible, every tribesman is a law unto himself and pays little heed to the titular leader, the Upper Yafa Sultan, unless the land is in grave danger when they rally to him until the danger is passed. In the Lowlands and in the Southern plain where the States are more vulnerable, there is a greater degree of obedience by the tribesmen to the authority of their Ruler, and such is the case where tribal territory abuts on to the Yemen in open country; country where the fear of Zeidi raids is greatest.

701 question of sound and inspired leadership and the discipline which flows from such leadership.

626 Security in the Protectorate was a very much wider problem than in the Colony and there were more diverse forces at my disposal to ensure a reasonable degree of protection and to punish those who wilfully created disturbances. Prior to 1937 no-one had paid very much attention to the Protectorate, and His Majesty's Government certainly had not attempted to honour their obligations. I doubt if they were really fully aware of what those obligations were to the people of this great territory. Beyond ensuring, in so far as was possible, that the trade routes remained open so that the trade of the Colony was not impaired by the wild and woolly ruffians in the hills behind, very little was done, and what was done was generally by the old-fashioned method of placating unruly and tiresome individuals with rifles and ammunition and money.

626 After 1937 there was a profound change in policy and the
•631 emphasis was then on reducing the number of lethal weapons in private possession and building up the authority of the Treaty Chiefs by providing them with the means to maintain security in their own States. His Majesty's Government had come to a better understanding of their obligations and realised that the first essential to any form of progress must be security. The Rulers were encouraged, therefore, to form their own armed police forces, and they received assistance in arming, clothing and paying for these forces.

625 By the time I became Governor there had come into being
701 in each State a body of men who were known as Tribal Guards and who were at the Ruler's disposal to maintain his authority and for use in any sudden security emergency. Starting as a completely untrained force they had gradually been brought up to a standard of efficiency and effectiveness which was a credit to the instructors who had been made available from the
[714] Government Guards. On ceremonial occasions they were very smart indeed, dressed in khaki shirts and khaki kilts with red cloth head-dresses, but in an emergency they left these trappings at home and there was nothing outwardly to distinguish

6:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1948) 1950 MM1 Aden

of the Red Sea route and the opening of the Suez Canal in 1869 regained for Aden its old importance. As a result of the increased prosperity of Aden since British occupation, the civil population excluding military has risen from 500 to 80,516 (according to the census taken in October, 1946). The modern commercial prosperity of Aden is based on the fact that it is a fuelling-station, originally for coal, and now for coal and oil. It is nearer than any other large port on the main eastern trade route to the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company's production centre in the Persian Gulf. The fact that ships call at Aden for fuelling has caused general increase in trade, and it is the distributing centre for trade to and from Arabia, Ethiopia, Somaliland and Africa.

Perim Island was first occupied by the French in 1738. In 1799 the British took formal possession, but evacuated the island in the same year. It was later reoccupied by the British in January, 1857, and placed under the control of an Assistant Political Resident at Aden. In 1929 the Manager of the Perim Coal Company was appointed Government Agent, but, on the closing down of that Company in October, 1936, the Commissioner of Police, Aden, was appointed Administrator of the island. A police detachment is maintained at Perim, and the Administrator makes regular visits from Aden, usually by air.

Chapter 3: Administration

Since 1937, when the territory was taken from the control of the Government of India and put under the Colonial Office, the constitution of Aden has been that of a Crown Colony. The Colony is administered by a Governor, assisted by an Executive Council.

Under the royal instructions, the Executive Council of the Colony consists of the officers lawfully discharging the functions of Chief Secretary, of Attorney General and of Financial Secretary and such other persons as may from time to time be appointed by His Majesty by any instructions or warrants under his sign manual and signet, or as the Governor may, by an instrument under the public seal of the Colony, appoint in pursuance of instructions from His Majesty through one of his principal Secretaries of State, or as the Governor may provisionally appoint in the manner provided in the royal instructions.

Whenever upon any special occasion the Governor desires to obtain the advice of any person within the Colony relating to affairs therein, he may summon such person, for such special occasions, as an Extraordinary Member of the Council.

Under the provisions of the Aden Colony (Amendment) Order, 1944, a Legislative Council was constituted for the Colony of Aden. The Council was inaugurated in January, 1947, and consists of the Governor as President, 4 *ex-officio* members, not more than 4 official members, and not more than 8 unofficial members. A list of members of the Executive and Legislative Councils is attached as Appendix I.

6:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1948) 1950 MM1 Aden MM1

Aden Colony also includes Perim Island which is administered by an Administrator who is also the Commissioner of Police, Aden. The population of the island is 381. The majority of the islanders are fishermen, and dried fish is exported to Aden. In the past there has been pearl fishing, but this year no pearl fishing contract was taken.

There is a small Police detachment in the island together with medical staff and lighthouse staff.

There is no natural water supply on the island; sea-water distilling plant provides sufficient water for the supply of the population and for the occasional ship which comes in for emergency water supplies.

Up to the end of 1948 Cable & Wireless Ltd. maintained communication by marine cable. The cable became unserviceable in 1948, and it was decided not to repair it. It is likely that communication will soon be established by wireless. A R.A.F. airplane makes a flight to the island once weekly and carries mail and passengers from Aden.

The Governor of the Colony is also Governor of the Aden Protectorate, which is not administered by the Colony Government. In each of the Western and Eastern Protectorates the Governor is represented by a British Agent, who deals with the various Rulers and Treaty Chiefs on the basis of treaties concluded with them.

There is no one Government for the Aden Protectorate; various Rulers and Chiefs are in protective treaty relations with His Majesty's Government. The Protectorate includes the island of Socotra.

The administration of justice within the Colony is entrusted to the Supreme Court, a Court of Small Causes for certain specified civil cases and Magistrates' Courts for criminal cases. The law of the Protectorate is largely tribal custom, but in certain chiefdoms the Shari'a code of Moslem law is recognised, especially in the Qu'aiti State of Shihr and Mukalla (ruled by His Highness Sultan Sir Salih bin Ghalib al Qu'aiti, K.C.M.G.), which State legislates by published decrees.

During 1948 the local government of the Colony remained vested in two Township Authorities. The larger is known as the Fortress Township Authority and the area covered by it embraces the Isthmus and Peninsula with a civilian population of close on 60,000. The Military and the R.A.F. establishments are within this area. The other Authority is known as Sheikh Othman Township Authority and takes its name from the built up township of 21,000 persons, all non-Europeans, situated some four miles from the Isthmus. The area governed by it includes this township and the remainder of the Colony in which are to be found four small coastal villages the inhabitants of which earn their livelihood mainly by fishing, basket making and lime burning, using shells collected on the sea shore for this last purpose, and who look on the built up area of Sheikh Othman as their main shopping centre and the place in which they find their simple means of recreation. The total population of these villages is approximately 2,000.

The Township Authorities hold fortnightly meetings in the exercise of their functions of superintending various services of municipal character, such as control of markets, maintenance of public health and sanitary

7: Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1949-50) 1951 MM1 Aden
Hadhramaut MM2

ADEN COLONY

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT

There are two local government bodies in the Colony: the larger is known as the Fortress Township Authority and he area governed embraces the Isthmus and Peninsula with a civilian population estimated to be 70,000. This area includes the Military and the R.A.F. establishments. The other is known as Sheikh Othman Township Authority and takes its name from the built-up township of 21,000 persons, all non-Europeans, situated some four miles from the Isthmus. The area governed includes this Township and the remainder of the Colony in which are to be found four smal coastal villages whose inhabitants number approximately 2,500.

In 1949 the principle of election was first introduced into the constitution of the Fortress Township Authority, so as to provide three elected members in addition to the existing four nominated official and three nominated unofficial members. In Crater ward there were elections, resulting in the success of one Arab merchant and one Pakistani advocate who was previously a nominated member of the Authority. In the other ward objections were raised against two Arab candidates, who were found not to be of British birth, and a

8:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1951-52)1954 MM1 Aden MM1

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